



PUBLIC NOTICE

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FCC ANNOUNCES MEMBERS OF JOINT WORKING GROUP ON LIFELINE AND LINK-UP SERVICES

On July 25, 2005, a nationwide initiative “Lifeline Across America” was launched to enhance consumer awareness of federal and state Lifeline and Link-Up programs.¹ The initiative includes the formation of a joint Working Group to develop best practices and outreach materials to support Lifeline and Link-Up services. This Public Notice names the members of the Working Group and advises the public of the opportunity to provide input to the Working Group. The members of the Working Group are:

- Lauren Patrich, FCC Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, lauren.patrich@fcc.gov
- Robert Somers, FCC Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, robert.somers@fcc.gov
- Dana Walton-Bradford, FCC Wireline Competition Bureau, dana.walton-bradford@fcc.gov
- Amy Bender, Wireline Competition Bureau, amy.bender@fcc.gov
- Sharon Lee, Enforcement Bureau, sharon.lee@fcc.gov
- Donna Cyrus, Enforcement Bureau, donna.cyrus@fcc.gov
- Jennifer Salhus, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Jennifer.salhus@fcc.gov
- Cindi Schieber, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, cindi.schieber@fcc.gov
- Beverlee DeMello, Florida Public Service Commission, BDeMello@psc.state.fl.us
- Lisa Colosimo, Ohio Public Utilities Commission, lisa.colosimo@puc.state.oh.us
- Sandra Sloane, New York Public Service Commission, Sandra_sloane@dps.state.ny.us
- Deena Frankel, Vermont Department of Public Service, deena.frankel@state.vt.us
- Dee Porter, Oklahoma Corporation Commission, d.porter@occcemail.com
- Greg Fogleman, Florida Public Service Commission, gfoglema@psc.state.fl.us
- John Ridgway, Iowa Utilities Board, john.ridgway@iub.state.ia.us
- Angela Gilliland, Indiana Office of the Utility Consumer Counsel, agilliland@oucc.in.gov

Lifeline and Link-Up are low-income support mechanisms, which ensure that quality telecommunications services are available to low-income consumers at just, reasonable, and affordable rates. Since its inception, Lifeline/Link-Up has provided support for telephone service to millions of low-income consumers.² These programs provide for discounts to low-

¹ See 47 C.F.R. Part 54, Subpart E; “FCC and NARUC Launch ‘Lifeline Across America’ to Raise Awareness of Lifeline and Link-Up Programs,” released July 26, 2005.

² See Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, *Trends in Telephone Service Report*, Table 19.8 (June 21, 2005).

income households for both the initial installation of phone service (Link-Up) and monthly phone bills (Lifeline).³ National statistics, however, reveal that citizens who qualify for Lifeline and Link-Up may not be aware of the benefits of the programs.⁴

Over the next several months, the Working Group will gather input to support the development of best practices to ensure the eligible consumers are aware of Lifeline and Link-Up and develop outreach and training materials. Parties interested in providing input to the Working Group may contact a member of the Working Group, or alternatively, may provide input or arrange to provide input by sending an email to lifeline@fcc.gov.

³ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.401, 54.411.

⁴ See *In the Matter of Lifeline and Link-Up*, WC Docket No. 03-109, *Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, 18 F.C.C.R. 8302 ¶ 1 (2004).